

Mrs. Gladys Coleman is best known for her tireless efforts around voter registration and voter mobilization. She was one of the founding members of the Fairfield Democratic Women, an organization created over 60 years ago to help educate voters, mobilize the Fairfield community, and elect candidates supportive of the community's needs. Mrs. Coleman was passionate about impacting the political dialogue in her community and it showed through her efforts to help elect council members, judges, state representatives and even members of Congress—all of whom Mrs. Coleman knew on a personal level.

Mrs. Gladys Coleman's political affiliations were numerous. She served as president of the Fairfield Democratic Women, and a member of the Jefferson County (AL) and State Democratic Executive Committees. In April 2015, she was one of seven honorees inducted into the Alabama Democratic Party Hall of Fame. Mrs. Coleman was a member of the Alabama Democratic Delegation to the 1984 National Democratic Convention in San Francisco, CA, the 1992 convention in New York City, and the 1996 convention in Chicago, IL. She was also present in Washington, DC for the January 2009 inauguration of our Nation's first black president, Barack Obama.

Besides politics, Mrs. Coleman's other passion was education. She believed in educating children about life, as well as book knowledge. She was a retired teacher from the Jefferson County (AL) and Birmingham City School Systems. Mrs. Coleman was the first black member appointed to the Fairfield Board of Education during the crucial years of desegregation in the city's school system. In 1975, she was appointed by the Alabama State Superintendent of Education to serve on the Accreditation Committee for Elementary Schools. Mrs. Coleman was a member of the Alabama and National Education Associations, and the American Federation of Teachers.

Mrs. Gladys Coleman was a lifelong member of her beloved Miles Chapel CME Church and served in many capacities over the years, including as choir member, Christian Board of Education, Ladies Guild, Missionary Society, and Steward Board.

Mrs. Coleman believed her "life's work" was educating her community about the importance of voting. She also enjoyed music—big bands, jazz and The Temptations, as well as shopping, and spending time taking care of her family. She was preceded in death by her late husband of 44 years, Jerry D. Coleman, and her brothers, Lawrence (Alberta), William, and John Tarver. She leaves to cherish her memory numerous nieces, nephews and a host of other relatives and friends.

On a personal note, I was blessed to call Mrs. Gladys Coleman a political mentor, distant relative and an important ally. When I decided to run for Congress in 2009, everyone told me there was only one person whose support in Fairfield would determine my success. When I went to her house to ask for her vote, she drilled me for hours on every issue affecting the Fairfield and Birmingham communities. She was dedicated to her beloved Fairfield Democratic Women and I will always be grateful for her support and the support of this influential group, including her honoring me with her presence at my swearing-in ceremony on Capitol Hill in January 2011. Mrs. Gladys Coleman was the real matriarch of the Fairfield community and the rock of her family.

She instilled a sense of pride in all who knew her and had a sincere passion to better her community through public service and political activism. She was a committed servant leader and demanded the same excellence from others.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring an icon of Fairfield and an Alabama treasure—Mrs. Gladys Tarver Coleman. Her legacy will continue to live on in the countless lives that she touched. May the Blessing of God be with her family and provide solace in their loss.

#### IN APPRECIATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

#### HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my appreciation to the International Festival of Language and Culture, which is having its 14th Annual celebration in Washington, DC on April 28, 2016.

This celebration brings 100 students from 20 countries who will perform at the festival and demonstrate their traditions, their culture and their talent with poetry, songs and dance. The celebration is intended as an expression of friendship, optimism and hope. The IFLC has as its mission the impressive goal to use music and art in order to promote cultural understanding, cultural tolerance, and to seek peace.

I congratulate the participants, and the IFCL, for coordinating and hosting this event.

#### HONORING SENIOR CHIEF PETTY OFFICER JAMES BROWN

#### HON. DANIEL M. DONOVAN, JR.

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Senior Chief Petty Officer James Brown's tireless commitment to serving our nation.

Senior Chief Brown first enlisted in the United States Navy on February 2, 1961. During his tenure in the U.S. Navy, Senior Chief Brown has served in numerous locations, including Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and Naval Air Station Roosevelt, Puerto Rico in 1962, and Sigonella, Sicily in 1963. He was discharged from active duty on January 25, 1965. After being initiated as a Chief Petty Officer on September 16, 1989, he advanced to Senior Chief Petty Officer on January 15, 1995. In recognition of his exemplary service, he has received the Navy and Marine Corps Medal, the Navy Achievement Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the Naval Reserve Meritorious Medal, the National Defense Medal, the Navy Expeditionary Medal, the Armed Forces Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the Navy Expert Rifle Medal, and the Navy Expert Pistol Medal. These accolades speak volumes to the distinguished dedication and valor with which Senior Chief Brown has served our nation.

After being discharged from active duty, Senior Chief Brown returned to New York, where he worked for the New York Telephone Company for a decade. He then moved on to positions with the American Satellite Corporation, Western Union, Satelco, Greenwich Air Services, the Teletype Communications Group, and AT&T. In 2000, after thirty-five years of working in the private sector, Senior Chief Brown began his well-deserved retirement. Currently, Senior Chief Brown serves as the president of Staten Island's Fleet Reserve Association Branch 226, an organization that conducts patriotic activities to honor veterans.

Mr. Speaker, Senior Chief Petty Officer James Brown has devoted his life to serving his country and his community, and it is only right to take this opportunity to recognize him and thank him for all that he has done. I am proud to honor this great American from New York's 11th District.

#### HONORING MR. WILLIAM "BILL" TURGEON FOR HIS EXEMPLARY SERVICE TO THE YOUTH OF RIVER BEND MIDDLE SCHOOL

#### HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Bill Turgeon for his contributions to his community both inside and outside the classroom at River Bend Middle School. The positive influences he has had on young children running the youth after school program go well beyond the classroom in preparing them as they face the challenges of real life. Parents and others in his community are proud to call him their own and there is no question, he is very deserving of their praise.

Mr. Turgeon is a fine example to his fellow citizens of dedication, selflessness, and commitment to the common good around the world. I thank him for his devotion to go above and beyond the call to mentor the youth of Sterling, Virginia.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE

#### HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the annual Days of Remembrance, and specifically of the Burbank Human Relations Council's 2016 Days of Remembrance program.

The Holocaust was the planned, systemic attempt by Nazi Germany to annihilate the Jewish people and to eradicate every vestige of Jewish life. The genocide resulted in the death of an estimated 6 million Jewish people, Romani people and hundreds of thousands of others who were considered unworthy of life. In 1980, the United States Congress unanimously passed legislation to establish the United States Holocaust Memorial Council. Among their other responsibilities, the Council was entrusted with creating an annual national day of remembrance for the victims of the Holocaust; thus the Days of Remembrance was established.